

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.(Currently amended) An airway adapter comprising:

(b) a first end section for connecting to an endotracheal tube adapter having an inner bore having a first internal diameter, said first end section having a passage having a second internal diameter formed therein;

a second end section for connecting to a ventilating tube connector, said second end section being in fluid communication with said first end section;

a sampling port intermediate said end sections in fluid communication with said first end section; and

a tubular sliding insert ~~with~~ having an internal bore having a third internal diameter, which said insert being adapted to slides axially in said passage.

2.(Currently amended) An airway adapter according to claim 1, ~~and~~ wherein the internal diameter of said internal bore of said insert gradually increases towards an end of said insert near said sampling port, such that said internal diameter of said internal bore becomes essentially equal to the internal diameter of said passage.

3.(Currently amended) An airway adapter according to claim 1, ~~and~~ wherein said insert has a projection adapted to abut against a portion of said first ~~said~~ end section, ~~which provides said projection providing an axial motion limit to motion of said insert~~ into said passage.

4.(Currently amended) An airway adapter according to claim 3, ~~and~~ wherein said projection comprises an external lip on the ~~external wall of~~ said insert.

5.(Currently amended) An airway adapter according to claim 1,~~and~~ wherein ~~an outer wall of said insert has~~ an outer wall having a surface profile such that the friction between said insert and said passage prevents said insert from sliding freely within said passage.

6.(Currently amended) An airway adapter according to claim 1,~~and~~ wherein said internal diameter of said internal bore of said insert at an end of said insert distant from said sampling port, ~~has an internal diameter~~ is essentially equal to the internal diameter of said inner bore of said endotracheal tube adapter, thereby providing a virtually smooth-walled passage from said inner bore of said endotracheal tube adapter to said internal bore of said insert.

7.(Currently amended) An airway adapter according to claim 6,~~and~~ wherein said end of said insert distant from said sampling port abuts against said end of said inner bore of said endotracheal tube ~~passage~~, thereby resulting in virtual elimination of void volume between said inner bore of said endotracheal tube adapter and said internal bore of said insert.

8.(Currently amended) An airway adapter according to claim 6,~~and~~ wherein said virtually smooth-walled passage is operative to allow a breath ~~waveform~~ to pass essentially without affecting its waveform.

9.(Currently amended) An airway adapter according to claim 7,~~and~~ wherein said virtual elimination of void volume is operative to allow a breath ~~waveform~~ to pass essentially without affecting its waveform.

10.(Currently amended) An airway adapter according to claim 7,~~and~~ wherein said virtual elimination of void volume between said inner bore of said endotracheal tube adapter and said internal bore of said insert is effective independently of the relative position in which said endotracheal tube adapter and said airway adapter are mated.

11.(Currently amended) An airway adapter according to claim 1, ~~and~~ wherein said sampling port has openings located radially distant from the walls of said passage.

12.(Currently amended) An airway adapter comprising:

a first end section for connecting to an endotracheal tube adapter having an inner bore having a first internal diameter, said first end section having a passage formed therein, said passage having ~~an inner bore~~ second internal diameter and an outer wall;

a second end section for connecting to a ventilating tube connector, said second end section being in fluid communication with said first end section;

a sampling port intermediate said end sections in fluid communication with said first end section; and

a tubular sliding sleeve, ~~with~~ said tubular sliding sleeve having an internal bore, which and being adapted to slides axially on said outer wall of said passage.

13.(Original) An airway adapter according to claim 12 and also comprising a spring operative to push said sleeve axially in a direction away from said sampling port.

B1 14.(Currently amended) An airway adapter according to claim 12, ~~and~~ wherein ~~an~~ the internal diameter of said passage increases towards an end of said passage near said sampling port.

15.(Currently amended) An airway adapter according to claim 12, ~~and~~ wherein said ~~inner bore~~ internal diameter of said passage ~~has an internal diameter at an end distant from said sampling port is~~ essentially equal to the internal diameter of said inner bore of said endotracheal tube adapter, thereby

providing ~~an approximately~~ a generally smooth-walled transition from said inner bore of said endotracheal tube adapter to said ~~inner bore of said~~ passage.

16.(Currently amended) An airway adapter according to claim 12, and wherein ~~said an~~ end of said sleeve distant from said sampling port abuts against ~~said an~~ end of said inner bore of said endotracheal tube ~~passage~~, thereby resulting in virtual elimination of void volume between said inner bore of said endotracheal tube adapter and said internal bore of said sleeve.

17.(Currently amended) An airway adapter according to claim 15, ~~and~~ wherein said virtually smooth-walled passage is operative to allow a breath ~~waveform~~ to pass essentially without affecting its waveform.

18.(Currently amended) An airway adapter according to claim 16, ~~and~~ wherein said virtual elimination of void volume is operative to allow a breath ~~waveform~~ to pass essentially without affecting its waveform.

19.(Currently amended) An airway adapter according to claim 16, ~~and~~ wherein said virtual elimination of void volume between said inner bore of said endotracheal tube adapter and said internal bore of said sleeve is effective independently of the relative position in which said endotracheal tube adapter and said airway adapter are mated.

20.(Currently amended) An airway adapter according to claim 12, ~~and~~ wherein said sampling port has openings located radially distant from the walls of said passage.

21.(Currently amended) An airway adapter according to claim ~~+12~~, and wherein ~~an~~ said end of said sleeve distant from said sampling port is constructed of a pliant material.

22.(Currently amended) An airway adapter according to claim 1, and operative to nullify the effects of differing internal diameters and internal lengths which are used in endotracheal tube adapters.

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